

52802 and 52803.

From Burma. Seeds collected by J. F. Rock, Agricultural Explorer of the United States Department of Agriculture. Received April 5, 1921.

52802. CORYPHA UMBRACULIFERA L. Phenicaceæ. Talipot palm.

"*Talipot palm.* From Monywa, upper Chindwin River, Burma." (Rock.)

"The *talipot* palm is one of about five species belonging to the genus *Corypha*. It has a ringed trunk, generally remarkably straight and reaching a height of over 80 feet. Its leaves are of gigantic size, possibly the largest fan leaves of all palms. The petiole is 7 feet long and armed with spines on the margins. The blade is about 6 feet long and 16 feet broad with segments numbering from 95 to 100, and these are again bilobate. The flowers are white to cream colored and are borne in huge terminal panicles often 20 feet long. The palm flowers but once, after which it dies. The fruit is a roundish one-seeded drupe.

"This enormous palm is a native of Ceylon and the Malabar coast but is now cultivated in most tropical countries. The flowering time begins usually in the hot season, and the seeds ripen about 9 or 10 months afterwards. Each tree has a spread of about 200 square feet.

"The leaves of this palm are made into fans, mats, and umbrellas; the segments were used by the Cinghalese to write on. The sacred Pali texts of the Buddhist literature of Ceylon are all written on the leaf segments which are supposed to have withstood the ravages of ages.

"The seeds, which are like ivory, are employed in India for the manufacture of beads; they are sometimes colored red and sold as coral. The pith of the trunk yields a kind of sago; it is beaten to flour and baked into cakes." (Rock, *The Ornamental Trees of Hawaii*, p. 19.)

For an illustration of the talipot palm, see Plate VI.

52803. TABAKTOGENOS KURZII King. Flacourtiaceæ. Chaulmoogra tree.

"(True chaulmoogra from the upper Chindwin, January, 1921.) The bark of these trees is smooth and pale yellowish brown; the trunks are straight; the branches, which appear quite low down, are at right angles to the trunk but droop downward, giving the trees a pyramidal shape and the aspect of an old Abies, or fir. The fruits, which are perfectly round and not pointed at the apex, are the size of a large orange, of a light-fawn color and velvety tomentose. They are on short thickened peduncles and are borne on the ends of the flexible branches which become pendent, owing to the weight of the fruits." (Rock.)

For further information concerning this tree and allied species, see Rock, "The Chaulmoogra Tree and Some Related Species," United States Department of Agriculture Bulletin No. 1057, pp. 10-27.

The chaulmoogra tree is illustrated in Plate VII, and its fruits are shown natural size in Plate VIII.

52804. CHAYOTA EDULIS Jacq. Cucurbitaceæ.
(*Sechium edule* Swartz.)

Chayote.

From Guatemala. Fruit presented by Harry Johnson. Received March 17, 1921.

"These chayotes come from the damp, hot coastal region, near Lake Izabal. They may do well in Florida and not damp-off so badly in the rains." (Johnson.)